IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

Terrestrial telescopes having a magnification factor ranging from about 20 to 60 are used extensively for observing wild birds and other fauna. Terrestrial telescopes include those based on a Galilean telescope configuration comprising a positive (convex) lens and a negative (concave) lens that functions as an erecting system, and those based on a Keplerian telescope configuration comprising just a positive (convex) lens, to which are added prisms or other such elements to constitute an erecting system. ~~Any~~ All terrestrial telescopes are configured such that a user can observe an erect image.

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

As well as being able to use such telescopes to observe natural flora and fauna, users want to be able to record the images. In ~~Japanese Patent Application, i.e.~~ Patent Document 1 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 2003-248266), the present applicant has already proposed a 25 configuration for a terrestrial telescope with a digital

camera that is able to record an observed image and also able to observe a clear and sharp special image in a system in which the observed image can be photographed.

Heading at line 24 of page 3 has been amended as follows:

~~Disclosure of~~ Summary of the Invention

Heading at line 10 of page 6 has been amended as follows:

~~Best Mode for Carrying Out~~ Detailed Description of the Invention

Paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 14 has been amended as follows:

If the QR half-mirror 2 is retracted and no correction is made, such as by the insertion of the plane glass 9 in the case of the example of this embodiment, then the camera is, for example, operated using the automatic focus control conditions calculated with the QR half-mirror 2 in the non-retracted position. This will degrade the image quality. The degree of degradation ~~vary~~ varies depending on various factors such as the depth of field (stop) during the image pickup, so that the degradation will be severe if the depth of field is kept shallow.

Paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 19 has been amended as follows:

The arrangement in Figure 5 is characterized in that the light beam shifted according to the reflection law by the flat front reflecting surface (half-transmitting surface) of the QR half-mirror 18, particularly the light beam in the central region, is shifted back near to the center with the aid of the inclined flat rear light-transmitting surface of the QR half-mirror 18. This causes the light beam passing through the central region of the imaging element 3 to be corrected such that it advances substantially on the same path as when the QR half-mirror 18 is not inserted.

Paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 19 has been amended as follows:

It is now assumed that a simple plane QR half mirror having a thickness of 1mm and a refractive index n=1.51633 is positioned 29.559 mm away from the imaging plane of the imaging element 3 and it is inserted at an angle of 45 degrees relative to the optical axis. The calculation is made in terms of the angle α of the flat rear light-transmitting surface (inclined surface) of the QR half-mirror 18 relative to the flat front reflecting surface (half-transmitting surface) thereof. It is to be noted that Figure 5 is an illustrative view without consideration of scales.

Paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 19 has been amended as follows:

As described in the foregoing, the invention employs an arrangement that comprises a group of objective lenses, an imaging element disposed behind said group of objective lenses and constituting an imaging optical system in cooperation with said group of objective lenses, a retractable optical-path-splitting means disposed as optical-path-splitting means between said group of objective lenses and said imaging element, an observation optical system for observing an optical image that is split outside of the optical path of said imaging optical system by said optical-path-splitting means, and an imaging position correction means in which, when said optical-path-splitting means is retracted from the optical axis of said imaging optical system, an optical element for correcting ~~an~~ a change in image-formation position caused by retraction of said optical-path-splitting means is inserted into the optical axis of said imaging optical system in association with the retraction of said optical-path-splitting means. Imaging can therefore be continuously performed with no loss of light, and the focus position of the imaging element can be corrected by means of a configuration that is simple and low in cost, having no need for calculation means or means for driving and controlling the optical element.